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- Governor Tim Kaine comments on the role volunteers play in Virginia

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Northern Virginians win awards from Governor

Governor announces 2008 Volunteerism and Community Service Award recipients

RICHMOND - Governor Timothy M. Kaine has announced the recipients of the 2008 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Two Northern Virginians from Sterling and Woodbridge are among this year's 12 winners.

The awards highlight the efforts of outstanding citizens of the Commonwealth who seek to enhance the lives of others in their communities. The awards are presented to groups, individuals and families whose efforts exemplify extraordinary volunteer service.

"I congratulate the winning volunteers who help us move Virginia forward and improve the quality of life for all Virginians," said Governor Kaine. "When we serve our community as volunteers, our unique skills, perspectives and experience make us a stronger Commonwealth."

Area winners of the 2008 Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award winners are:

- **Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Woodbridge:** Youth Organization Award. YCC engages young people in important conservation and environmental education programs on Virginia's public lands.
- **Rebecca Jennifer Welsch, Sterling:** Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery Award. Welsch volunteers and recruits others into service at the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company.

Governor Kaine has proclaimed April 27 – May 3 as Volunteer Week in Virginia. As a prelude, awards were presented during a three-day conference on volunteerism and community service, April 23 –25, in Virginia Beach. The Governor's Commission on Community and National Service, Virginia Corps and the Virginia Department of Social Services' Office on Volunteerism and Community Service hosted the awards ceremony on Thursday, April 24.

At least 1.7 million Virginians volunteer their time and talents annually. Virginians average nearly 243 million volunteer hours, equaling more than \$4 billion dollars worth of service to the state. For more information about the awards and the 2008 Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service, visit www.vaservice.org.

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